Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) kindly amend the specification as follows. Amendments to the specification are made by presenting replacement paragraphs or sections marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended paragraph or section are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

Please replace the REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section on page 1, lines 2-9 with the following REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section starting on page 1, line 2.

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of copending patent application serial number 10/044,762, filed January 10, 2002, entitled "BLADE TENSIONER", now abandoned, which claimed an invention which was disclosed in Japanese application number 2001-29218, filed February 6, 2001. The benefit under 35 USC§119(a) of the Japanese application is hereby claimed, and the aforementioned applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 9-10 with the following paragraph starting on page 4, line 9:

Fig. 7 shows a horizontal cross-sectional view of ~~an embodiment of~~ the blade tensioner of Fig. 6~~the present invention~~.